

APPENDIX A. CEQA EXEMPTIONS

Appendix A includes:

- [Table A-1.](#) Statutory Exemptions from CEQA
- [Table A-2.](#) Categorical Exemptions from CEQA

The Legislature has enacted a variety of statutory exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This table summarizes the exemptions and provides citations to the appropriate code sections. Please refer to the statutory provision for the complete statutory language. The table does not include certain project-specific exemptions for certain facilities already approved or constructed.

Type of Action	Exempt Activities	Statutory Provision	CEQA Guidelines Section(s)
Agency Actions	\$ Ministerial projects (e.g., issuance of building permits or business licenses)	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(1)	15268
	\$ Projects that a public agency rejects or disapproves	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(5)	15270
	\$ Local actions implementing a State rule or regulation pursuant to a State-certified regulatory program, except certain site-specific activities	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(15)	15250–15253
	\$ Feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that the agency has not approved, adopted, or funded	Pub. Res. Code 21102, 21150	15262
Emergency Actions	\$ Emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(2)	15269(b)
	\$ Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed in an area proclaimed as an emergency by the Governor	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(3)	15269(a)
	\$ Actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency (not including long-term projects with low probability of short-term occurrence)	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(4)	15269(c)
	\$ Projects to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway	Pub. Res. Code 21080.33	15269(d)
Energy Projects	\$ Local ordinances regarding solar shade control requirements	Pub. Res. Code 25985	15282(o)
Transportation-Related Projects	\$ Actions to establish, modify, or restructure rates, tolls, fares, or other charges for certain designated public purposes	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(8)	15273(a)
	\$ Projects instituting or increasing passenger or commuter service on existing rail lines or highway rights-of-way	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(10)	15275(a)
	\$ Projects instituting or increasing passenger or commuter service on existing high-occupancy vehicle lanes	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(11)	15275(a)
	\$ Mass transit extensions of less than 4 miles for the transfer of passengers	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(12)	15275(b)

Type of Action	Exempt Activities	Statutory Provision	CEQA Guidelines Section(s)
	\$ Regional or State transportation improvement programs	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(13)	15276(a)
	\$ Congestion Management Program by a county agency	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(13)	15276(b)
	\$ Railroad grade separation projects	Pub. Res. Code 21080.12	15282(h)
	\$ Restriping of streets or highways to reduce traffic congestion	Pub. Res. Code 21080.19	15282(k)
	\$ Transportation rights-of-way in designated transportation corridors for which an environmental impact report was certified	Pub. Res. Code 33911	15282(p)
Categorically Exempt Projects	\$ All classes of projects designated pursuant to Pub. Res. Code 21084 (i.e., categorical exemptions)	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(9)	15300–15332
Out-of-State/NEPA Projects	\$ Projects or portions of projects located in another state that will be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or State environmental review consistent with NEPA	Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(14)	15277
Housing-Related Projects	\$ Housing or neighborhood commercial facilities in urbanized areas that are consistent with a comprehensive regulatory document and meet certain criteria	Pub. Res. Code 21080.7	15282(e)
	\$ Conversion of existing rental mobile home parks to condominium ownership	Pub. Res. Code 21080.8	15282(f)
	\$ Adoption of ordinances related to certain second units	Pub. Res. Code 21080.17	15282(i)
	\$ Approval of day-care homes providing family day care for up to 12 children	Health and Safety Code 1597.46	15274
	\$ Actions related to the construction, conversion, or use of low-income agricultural employee housing	Pub. Res. Code 21801.01	15279
	\$ Actions related to the construction, conversion, or use of lower-income housing projects of 100 units or less in urban areas	Pub. Res. Code 21080.14	—
	\$ Regional housing needs determinations made by the Department of Housing and Community Development, a council of governments, or a city or county	Govt. Code 65584	15282(s)

Type of Action	Exempt Activities	Statutory Provision	CEQA Guidelines Section(s)
Local Coastal Programs	\$ Activities and approvals by local governments or State colleges and universities related to local coastal programs or long-range land use development plans	Pub. Res. Code 21080.9	15265(c)
School Projects	\$ Closing of any KB12 public school or the transfer of students from such a school, if the associated physical changes are categorically exempt	Pub. Res. Code 21080.18	15282(j)
Timberland Preserve Projects	\$ Local adoption of timberland preserve zones	Govt. Code 51119	15264
Water-Related Projects	\$ Temporary water transfers of up to 1 year in duration	Water Code 1729	15282(v)
	\$ Repiping, redesign, or use of reclaimed water for certain irrigation, cooling, or air conditioning purposes	Water Code 13552.4(c)(1), 13552.8(c)(1)	—
	\$ Minor alterations to utilities to comply with public water system fluoridation requirements	Pub. Res. Code 21080.26	15282(n)
	\$ Preparation and adoption of Urban Water Management Plans	Water Code 10652	15282(w)
Waste Disposal Projects	\$ Nondisposal facility elements of local solid waste management plans	Pub. Res. Code 41375	15282(q)
	\$ Certain pipelines for the transport of certain hazardous or volatile wastes	Pub. Res. Code 21080.23	15284
	\$ Cooperative agreements for the development of solid waste management facilities on Indian lands	Pub. Res. Code 44203(g)	15282(r)
Specific Agency Actions	\$ General plan time extensions granted by the Office of Planning and Research	Pub. Res. Code 21080.10a	15266
	\$ General plan actions required to comply with a court order	Govt. Code 65759	15282(t)
	\$ Funding of low- or moderate-income housing projects by the California Department of Housing and Community Development or Housing Finance Agency	Pub. Res. Code 21080.10(b)	15267
	\$ Settlements of title and boundary problems and related exchanges and leases by the State Lands Commission	Pub. Res. Code 21080.11	15282(g)

Type of Action	Exempt Activities	Statutory Provision	CEQA Guidelines Section(s)
\$	Adoption of waste discharge requirements under the federal Clean Water Act, except for certain new sources, by the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards	Water Code 13372, 13389	15263
\$	Issuance of bonds by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority	Health and Safety Code 44561	—
\$	Local general plan amendments required by the Delta Protection Commission	Pub. Res. Code 21080.22	15282(m)
		Pub. Res. Code 21080.24	15281
		Chapter 1131 Statutes of 1993, Section 1	15278
		Pub. Res. Code 21080(b)(7)	15272
		Pub. Res. Code 5097.98(c)	15282(a)
		Pub. Res. Code 21080.01, 21080.03, 21080.07	15282(b)
		Pub. Res. Code 21080.05	15282(a)
		Pub. Res. Code 21080.08	15282(d)
		Pub. Res. Code 21080.21	15282(l)
		Govt. Code 91543	15282(u)

Table A-2. Categorical Exemptions from CEQA

The secretary for Resources has adopted a variety of categorical exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This table summarizes the exemptions (referred to as “classes”) and provides citations to the appropriate sections of the CEQA Guidelines. Many of the categories include special limitations and examples of exempt projects. Please refer to the Guidelines section for complete Guidelines language. Also, unlike statutory exemptions, categorical exemptions are subject to certain exceptions found in Guidelines Section 15300.2.

Class	Exempt Activity	Guidelines Section
Class 1	Operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing structures or facilities not expanding existing uses	15301
Class 2	Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities on the same site having substantially the same purpose and capacity	15302
Class 3	New construction of limited small new facilities; installation of small, new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of the use of small existing structures (e.g., construction of three or fewer single-family homes in urban areas)	15303
Class 4	Minor alterations in the condition of the land, such as grading, gardening, and landscaping, that do not affect sensitive resources	15304
Class 5	Minor alterations to land use limitations, such as lot line adjustments, variances, and encroachment permits on land with a slope of less than 20%, that do not result in changes in land use or density	15305
Class 6	Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource	15306
Class 7	Certain actions by regulatory agencies to maintain, restore, or enhance natural resources, other than construction activities, where the regulatory process includes procedures to protect the environment	15307
Class 8	Certain actions by regulatory agencies to maintain, restore, or enhance the environment, other than construction activities, where the regulatory process includes procedures to protect the environment	15308
Class 9	Inspections to check for the performance of an operation, or for quality, health, or safety of a project	15309
Class 10	Certain Department of Veterans Affairs loans and mortgages for purchases of certain existing structures	15310
Class 11	Construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities (e.g., signs, small parking lots, portable structures)	15311
Class 12	Sales of surplus government property, except in environmentally sensitive areas	15312
Class 13	Acquisition of land for fish and wildlife habitat conservation purposes	15313
Class 14	Minor additions to existing schools that do not increase capacity by more than 25%	15314

Class	Exempt Activity	Guidelines Section
Class 15	Subdivision of certain properties in urban areas into four or fewer parcels	15315
Class 16	Certain acquisitions or sales of land in natural condition or containing cultural resource sites to establish a park	15316
Class 17	Establishment of agricultural preserves, making and renewal of Williamson Act contracts, and acceptance of open-space property	15317
Class 18	Designation of wilderness areas under the California Wilderness System	15318
Class 19	Annexations of certain areas containing existing structures and certain small parcels	15319
Class 20	Local government reorganizations requiring no changes in the areas where previous powers were exercised, such as the establishment of subsidiary districts, consolidations, and mergers	15320
Class 21	Actions by regulatory agencies to enforce a lease, permit license, or other entitlement; actions by law enforcement officials	15321
Class 22	Actions related to educational or training programs involving no exterior physical changes	15322
Class 23	Normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed	15323
Class 24	Actions taken by regulatory agencies related to wages, hours, and working conditions	15324
Class 25	Transfers of interest in land to preserve open space	15325
Class 26	Actions needed to implement a housing assistance plan by acquiring an interest in housing units	15326
Class 27	Leasing of new or unoccupied private facilities in a building exempt from CEQA	15327
Class 28	Installations of certain hydroelectric facilities of less than 5 megawatts capacity at existing facilities	15328
Class 29	Installation of certain cogeneration equipment of less than 50 megawatts capacity at existing facilities	15329
Class 30	Minor actions to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or substances	15330
Class 31	Historical resource restoration or rehabilitation consistent with Secretary of Interior guidelines	15331
Class 32	Certain infill development projects in urban areas	15332